

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HERMOS 00396 181622Z

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FM AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 870

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

UNCLAS HERMOSILLO 396

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC MX (ROWE, ROLAND)

SUBJECT: W/W REVIEW CASES OF ALL AMCIT PRISONERS

REF: STATE 194199 & 230071

1. DENIAL OF CONSULAR ACCESS - PER POST FILES, ROWE WAS ARRESTED SEPTEMBER 9, 1973. CONOFF LEARNED OF ARREST THROUGH NEWSPAPERS OF SEPTEMBER 13, 1973. ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1973, CHARLES WALKER, AN AMCIT LIVING IN CIUDAD OBREGON, CALLED CONOFF TO INFORM HIM OF THE ARREST. FILES DO NOT SHOW THAT ROWE MADE ANY ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT CONOFF AT TIME OF ARREST. IN THIS CASE, IT IS NOT CLEAR FROM THE FILES WHETHER ABSENCE OF EARLY ACCESS WAS THE RESULT OF DENIAL OF ACCESS BY MEXICAN OFFICIALS.

2. CONOFF VISITATION - PER POST FILES, CHARLES WALKER TOLD CONOFF ON NOVEMBER 6, 1973 AND JANUARY 16, 1974 THAT ROWE HAD MADE AN URGENT REQUEST TO SEE CONOFF. ROWE WAS FIRST SEEN BY CONOFF ON JANUARY 25, 1974 AFTER HE HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM CIUDAD OBREGON TO HERMOSILLO. ROWE WAS NEVER VISITED BY CONOFF IN CIUDAD OBREGON. DURING ROWE'S STAY IN CIUDAD OBREGON, CONOFF FREQUENTLY SPOKE TO CHARLES WALKER WHO WAS IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH ROWE. ROWE HAS ALSO APPEARED AT MONTHLY CONOFF VISITS OF APRIL 22, 1974, NOVEMBER 26, SEPTEMBER 17, 1975, AND DECEMBER 15.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 HERMOS 00396 181622Z

3. EXTORTION BY ATTORNEY - PER POST FILES,

CHARLES WALKER TOLD CONOFF ON NOVEMBER 9, 1973 THAT ROWE AND MICHAEL JOHNSON, AMCIT ARRESTED WITH ROWEN, WERE DISSATISFIED WITH THEIR LAWYER, LIC. MANUEL GOMES DEL CASTILLO. BOTH OF THEM CLAIMED THEY HAD EACH GIVEN THE LAWYER 500 DOLLARS AND HE HAD PROMISED TO GET ONE OF THEM RELEASED IF THE OTHER TOOK THE ENTIRE BLAME. CONOFF SAID HE COULD NOT INTERVENE. WALKER CALLED AGAIN ON ROWE'S BEHALF ON DECEMBER 6, 1973 AND REPEATED THE SAME COMPLAINT. AT JANUARY 25, 1974 MEETING, ROWE ASKED CONOFF TO GET IN TOUCH WITH A PRESUMED ASSOCIATE OF LIC. CASTILLO, A MR. DOMINGUEZ OF HERMOSILLO. FILES DO NOT INDICATE DOMINGUEZ WAS EVER LOCATED OR CONTACTED, IN VISIT OF SEPTEMBER 17, 1975, ROWE INDICATED HE WAS PURSUING HIS DEFENSE THROUGH PUBLIC DEFENDER. AT DECEMBER 15 VISIT HE AND JOHNSON SAID THEY FELT MONEY GIVEN TO THE FIRST ATTORNEY WAS A LOST CAUSE AND NO FURTHER CONOFF ACTION WOULD BE USEFUL.

4. PROLONGED PRE-TRIAL DETENTION - PER POST FILES, ROWE, WHO HAD BEEN IN PRISON FOURTEEN MONTHS WITHOUT SENTENCING, WAS ASKED DURING CONOFF VISIT OF NOVEMBER 26, 1974 IF HE WOULD LIKE HIS NAME INCLUDED IN NEXT DIPLOMATIC NOTE OF PROTEST REGARDING PROLONGED TRIAL DETENTION. ROWE CONSENTED AND EMBASSY WAS ADVISED BY TELEPHONE ON NOVEMBER 30, 1975 TO INCLUDE HIS NAME ON THE NOTE, ROWE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY SENTENCED ON MAY 1975, TWENTY MONTHS AFTER ARREST.

5. BOND, BAIL, OR "FIANZA" - PER POST FILES, ROWE RECEIVED SENTENCE OF THREE YEARS AND TWO MONTHS, BUT HAS APPEALED THE CASE AND WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR FIANZA UNTIL APPEAL IS DECIDED. CONOFF AGREED AT DECEMBER 15, 1975 INTERVIEW TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE STATUS OF ROWE'S APPEAL.

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PAGE 03 HERMOS 00396 181622Z

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